

EJ work in NE Denver
(Per Michael Wenstrom)

June 27, 2019

History of engagement with the Northeast Denver Community

- 1999, et seq. - VB/I70, Collaborated with Superfund in its community engagement
- 2002 - Conoco Refinery settlement – Community-based SEPs – worked with community to bring forward ideas/proposals for SEPs.
- 2006 - Denver 311 - community convening – Response to community concerns about Denver’s perceived lack of response to 311 call lack of follow-through
- 2007 - RCRA – Vapor intrusion community meets
- 2013 - Worked with CDPHE in designing an approach to Suncor SEPs, per settlement.
- 2017 - Suncor Refinery engagement – in response to community anxiety about and fear of refinery operations. Met with the company.
- 2018 - VB/I70 (OU 3) - Engagement with community, at the request of R8 Superfund.
- 2018 - EPA meet with community and EPA staff regarding Title 5 Permit mod. request.
- 2018 - Along with EPA staff, met with CDPHE re: Title V permit mod. request.

- 2018 - EJ convened a meeting with community leaders re: critical community issues
- 2019 - Conversation with Rep. DeGette's staff (April 8).
- 2019 - Currently working with the community, per their request. for assistance in planning a Health Assessment study (funded by a \$500 K settlement with Colorado Dept of Transportation).

Narrative

The EJ program has been significantly engaged with the Northeast Denver community (Swansea/Elyria/Globeville) for twenty years, beginning with support for the R8 Superfund program at the VB/I70 Superfund site.

Recently, the EJ program was asked to speak with Congresswoman Diane DeGette's staff about our work in the community. That request was apparently triggered by the community's concern about Suncor's request for the modification of its Title V permit to allow for increased hydrogen cyanide emissions. The community directed Ms. DeGette's staff to contact the EJ program.

- On April 8, Jody Ostendorf and Michael Wenstrom held a conference call with Congresswoman's DeGette's staff.
- Questions focused on the current nature of the community from an EJ perspective.
- We observed the following:
 - The community is largely low income and underserved and is changing rapidly due to proximate economic redevelopment.
 - The principal pressures on the community are the availability and affordability of housing, the expansion of I70, and concerns relating to health impacts from vehicle traffic and the Suncor refinery.

- The community is variously served in addressing its concerns by some locally-based groups and others from outside of the community.
- Our experience is that, for the most part, the community does not trust government at any level. EJ is somewhat exempt from that distrust, given our extensive engagement with community.

We are currently assisting the community in navigating the government waters in the planning for and design of a health study for which they recently received CDOT funding.